

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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R 241646Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5471

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08459

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SPANISH AMBASSADOR
TO PARIS MIGUEL SOLANO AZA

1. NEWLY APPOINTED SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE MIGUEL SOLANO AZA WAS BORN ON 17 JULY 1922. AFTER GRADUATING FROM DIPLOMATIC SCHOOL IN AUGUST 1945, HE SERVED IN GENOA, TANGIER, SANTIAGO AND STRASBOURG. IN JULY 1962 HE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF UNITED NATIONS' AFFAIRS IN MFA. IN MAY 1963 HE WAS ASSIGNED AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN ROME. FROM APRIL 1970 TO FALL 1973 HE SERVED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. FROM 1973 TO 1976 HE WAS AMBASSADOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA. IN JULY 1976 HE WAS APPOINTED TO NUMBER TWO POST IN THE MFA, UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN WHICH HE SERVED UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FOR PARIS.

2. ALTHOUGH INITIALLY AMBASSADOR SOLANO SEEMED TO SHOW TENDENCY TO BE SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE IN SOME OF HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY, PERHAPS REFLECTING HIS PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC CONCENTRATION IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, THIS ATTITUDE, IF IT INDEED EXISTED, WAS NOT PRESENT IN THE LATTER PART OF HIS TOUR. BY THE END OF HIS TOUR AS UNDER SECRETARY, EMBASSY HAD A VERY GOOD AND WARM WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE HAD A CLOSE RELATION-
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SHIP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA AND WAS ACTUALLY IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF TIME DUE TO OREJA'S FREQUENT TRAVELS. WHEN HE CHAIRED U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETINGS, THEY WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT BEEN IN THE BEST OF HEALTH--HE HAD ALL OR A PART OF A LUNG REMOVED 2-3 YEARS AGO--THIS HAS NOT APPEARED TO HAVE AFFECTED HIS CAPACITY FOR WORK. HE IS A

QUICK STUDY, VERY ARTICULATE AND TO THE POINT IN SPANISH
BOTH WHEN SPEAKING INFORMALLY AND TO A GROUP. HIS WIFE
IS OUTSPOKEN AND FAR FROM BEING A DIPLOMATIC WALL FLOWER.
WE BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR SOLANO LEFT HIS POST AS UNDER
SECRETARY WELL-DISPOSED TO THE U.S. AND THAT PARIS WILL
FIND HIM A PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUE, COURTEOUS AND EFFECT-
IVE. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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